

TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society
Newsletter, No. 26

January 1994

New TReeS Leaflet

You will find two of the new TReeS leaflets enclosed with this Newsletter. The text and data have been updated and some of the illustrations changed. However, the existing membership rates have been maintained. Please make use of these leaflets to renew your membership, if it is owing, and increase our membership by encouraging a friend or relative to join. More leaflets can be supplied on request.

The funds donated by members provide a crucial proportion of our income

TCRZ - Pre-feasibility study for conservation and Development

A document entitled 'A Pre-feasibility study for Conservation and Development in the TCRZ' will shortly be available in the TReeS libraries. It recommends formulating a proposal of territorial ordering, which would include the zones of influence of the TCRZ. The principal reason for this is the potential impact of the Trans-oceanic Highway and the San Gaban hydro-electric plant (HEP), which will lie just outside the TCRZ.

The Technical Committee has proposed a preliminary zonification of the TCRZ based on the information available to date. The zonification is based on the natural boundaries of the basins and sub-basins of the rivers Tambopata, Heath and Malinowski.

The proposed zones:-

★ Tambopata National Park: zone of strict protection - the central and southern part of the TCRZ covering 761,800 hecs. This area would afford protection to very high biodiversity and essential ecological processes, especially those relating to the water cycle. It will include the Colpa.

★ Reserved Zones: zones for the further evaluation of resources - there are 2 areas, one in the south and one in the north, covering 315,669 hecs. (81,125 hecs. and 234,544 hecs. respectively). There are many proposals/current land

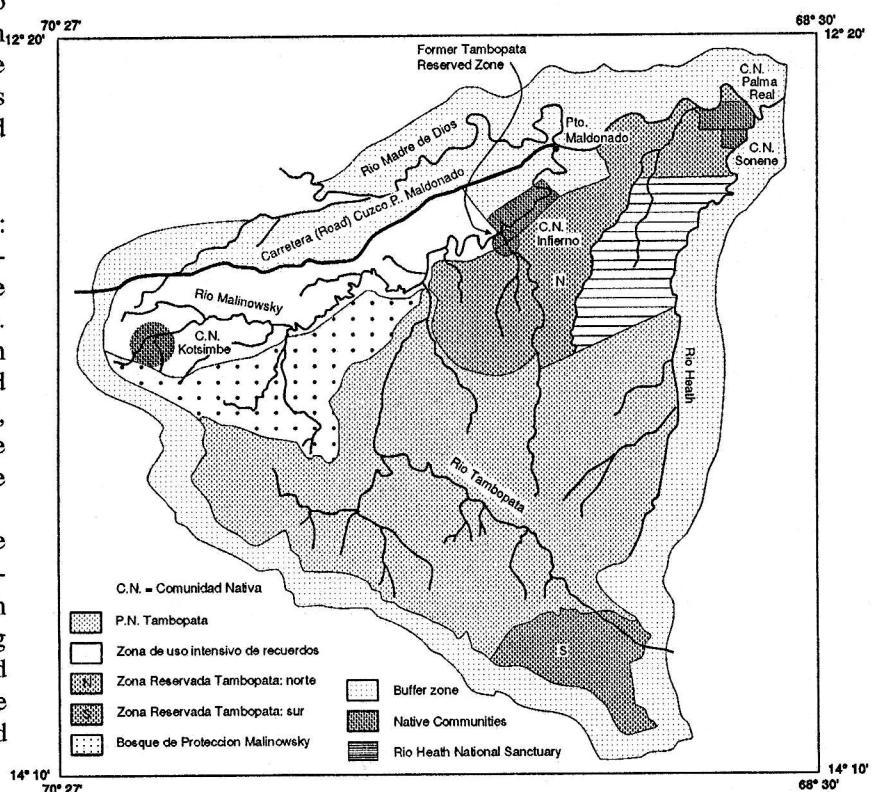
uses which need to be evaluated and their spatial extent identified before boundaries and categories of land use are established. The evidence of current land uses and of potential future demand warrant the prolongation of the Reserved Zone status for the areas and the carrying out of more detailed biodiversity evaluations.

For the northern area there are several proposals. However, as a Nature Reserve the gathering and use of the products of wild flora would be prohibited. A National Sanctuary is possible for areas of high nature value, other options include an Extractive Reserve or a National Reserve for the sustainable use of flora and fauna.

The northern area is adjoined by the native communities of Palma Real, Sonene and Infierno. In the southern area up to 3,000 people are involved on a seasonal basis in coffee growing.

★ Zone for the use of resources - covers the north and north-western part of the TCRZ, an area of 367,125 hecs. It contains the whole of the Malinowski drainage basin and the most intense agriculture and mining activity. It also includes the land claimed by the Native Community of Kotsimba and land known to be of high scientific value - part of the former TRZ.

The Technical Committee proposes that land in this area should be put to gradually intensifying restrictions from north to south. Land uses on the north side of the P.Maldonado/Cuzco road, land around P.Maldonado, plus the native community of



Infierno will also have to be taken into account with respect to the overall management of the northern part of the TCRZ.

Four areas have been proposed for this Zone:

♦ **Lands for the Intensive Use of Resources:** the area between the Cuzco/Maldonado road and the river Malinowski, plus a strip to the south of the R.Malinowski and the lower Tambopata. The land is currently devoted to agroforestry, ranching, forestry and gold extraction.

♦ **N.C. of Kotsimba:** the claimed lands lie within the above area.

♦ **Malinowski Protected Forest:** the remainder of the Malinowski drainage basin to the south of the land for the 'Intensive use of resources'. Its objective is to protect land at high risk of erosion, while allowing the use of wild fauna and forest resources apart from timber. A scientific station is proposed at the confluence with the R.Malinowski.

♦ **Land of scientific value:** the former TRZ land lying outside the lands of the N.C. of Infierno; it is proposed to retain this territory as a centre for further research, especially that relating to sustainable development. A new protective category - a 'Biological station' or 'Scientific station' may be created in Peruvian law for this territory.

★ **Zone of Influence** - As the boundaries of the TCRZ are artificially imposed on the landscape it is considered necessary to extend the objectives of land use to include the right bank of the river Iñambari and both sides of the river Madre de Dios, from its confluence with the Iñambari to the Bolivian border. The proximity of the Bolivian border with similar high biodiversity on the other side of the border offers the possibility of a 'continuum' of strict protection across international boundaries. This would necessitate a bi-national commitment to environmental protection as outlined by Pres. Fujimori at the 3rd Kew Environmental lecture in 1992.

Peru News - The New Constitution

On 31st October Peruvians voted for a new Constitution to replace the 1979 Constitution - introduced when democracy was restored in Peru.

The new Constitution was drafted by a Constituent Congress. The Congress was elected earlier in the year but few of the traditional political parties agreed to participate in the elections following Fujimori's 'autogolpe' the previous year.

The new Constitution failed to receive the significant majority predicted with just 52%

of the electorate voting in its favour. The spatial variations in the vote indicate that the high 'Yes' vote in Lima and Callao, the most densely populated areas and where the new Constitution was most heavily promoted, carried the overall vote. The majority of departments registered a 'No' vote.

For the majority of the electorate the vote came down to two issues - the President being allowed to stand immediately for a second term and the re-introduction of the death penalty for certain crimes.

In this context a wide range of other issues were largely overlooked. Many of these issues have direct implications for the native population of Peru and the future of the Peruvian landscape.

The following are some of the most unsatisfactory elements of the new Constitution in this respect -

★ there were no native representatives in the Constituent Congress although 30% of Peruvians, split between the Sierra and the Selva, are native people. - the consultation progress was brief, penalising the more remote and under resourced native organisations.

★ for the first time communal native lands have become disposable on the orders of the State, if the community runs up debts. Communal lands are the traditional lands of native people, which have been in their possession for centuries and are often sacred. Now native lands could become a legitimate target for loggers, miners, traders and others who are in a position to take advantage of native people.

★ the 1979, 1933 and 1920 Constitutions uphold the rights of native communities to their lands, whether titled or not. The new Constitution now gives the State direct control over these lands. If, in the eyes of the State, the land is 'abandoned' then the state may assume control over these lands and sell them. Native people fear greatly that State officials will fail to appreciate traditional forms of forest management and assume that land may be 'abandoned' unless it is under intense cultivation. This also has important implications for the conservation of unprotected but significant landscapes in proximity to native communities.

There are several other aspects of the new Constitution which fail to respect the culture and social traditions of native people. Ironically, these measures are seen as highly advantageous by major mining and industrial companies, whose investments will make the Peruvian economy one of the fastest growing in the world in 1994.

Some of the above is based on comments

on the new Constitution made by AIDESEP (Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest).

GATT and the Rainforest

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) regulates roughly 90% of world trade. In December 1993 116 countries signed a new Agreement after more than 7 years of negotiations. It aims to ease the movement of goods and capital around the world, creating new markets and new jobs. Whether this proves to be the good news politicians are indicating will depend on who gets the new trade and, more importantly, the social and environmental costs.

An underlying premise of GATT is that rich nations will benefit from greater free trade while, through the 'trickle down' effect, poorer nations will also gain. However, it is clear that, over the last 50 years, the 'trickle down' effect has not created a fairer world nor ensured environmental and tribal protection.

With many social and environmental laws and restrictions now lifted through GATT, labour costs are likely to become an increasingly crucial factor influencing the location of industrial activity. Consequently, wealthier consumer societies are unlikely to experience growth in manufacturing industry and can expect a growing trade deficit in consumer goods. Conversely, poorer nations will experience industrial growth at the expense of their environments and intensified social inequalities.

The elite of the Third World nations will find the offer of foreign investment difficult to reject; with large international debts they are lead to believe that industrial growth will lead to greater prosperity. In this context it should be noted that there was an average *net* movement of capital of over \$50bn/year in the 1980's from the Third World to the First World, in debt and loan repayments. Consequently, the search for greater prosperity will increase the pressure on Third World nations to exploit their natural resources to meet the First Worlds' resource consumption requirements.

In the context of the extraction of raw materials from rainforests the new Agreement will have the following impacts -

- ★ import restrictions on non-sustainably produced resources will be banned, removing the need for reforestation and discouraging Governments from assisting such schemes.
- ★ there will be fewer restrictions on the manner in which resources can be extracted.

Strip clearance of forest to obtain a few valuable trees and plantation cultivation, which facilitates rapid resource extraction, are, consequently, encouraged.

★ quantitative barriers to resource exploitation will be removed and, as a result, pressures on biodiversity and indigenous people intensified.

★ small-scale extractors of forest resources (brazil-nuts, rubber, . . .) will continue to find it impossible to compete with large multi-national operators.

Initial analysis suggests that the 500 largest multi-nationals will have the most to gain. On this basis the Transoceanic Highway through Madre de Dios, opening up the south-eastern Peruvian and western Brazilian Amazon, becomes an even more realistic project. Large multi-nationals are likely to control the construction of the road and the goods, destined for western consumers, moving along it. Past experiences indicate that they will employ some local people, almost certainly colonists rather than native people, during its construction but at low wages. Subsequently, large-scale migration to the area can be expected further marginalising traditional societies and impinging on an area which, increasingly, is being recognised as possessing a unique environment.

Regrettably, it seems that an opportunity to create a fairer world has been lost and we should have even less optimism for the future of threatened environments and the traditional societies which inhabit them.

Resident Naturalist News from the Explorer's Inn

Climate -

In July there were only 7 days with rain which totalled 70mm. There were 2 'friajes' and the average maximum temperature for the month was 26 C. In August there were again just 7 days of rain (85mm). Despite 3 short 'friajes' the av.max.temp. reached 27 C due to a 5 day hot spell. In September there was slight rain on 15 days (84mm). The av.max.temp. rose to 28 C, with no friajes. The rainy season began in October, though it also only rained on 15 days (283mm). Temperatures rose considerably, with 7 days at 34-35 C, the av.max.temp. was 30 C. In November rainfall was not excessive at 208mm, nor the av.max.temps. at 22-27 C.

Recent Sightings -

Sightings have increased with the onset of the rainy season, tapir and jaguar were spotted along the river bank en route to the Colpa. Along the trails plenty of big cat tracks and

faeces have been found. In addition to the usual sightings, Red Brocket deer, Caiman on L.Chica and Crested eagles have been seen frequently. However, the amount of hunting in the vicinity of the Explorer's Inn would appear to have risen with gunshots heard with increasing frequency.

Current and Recent RN's and visitors to the Explorer's Inn include -

P.Hammond & M.Hammond - investigating indications of bush-dogs close to L.Chica and renovating trail signs and guides. The Peruvian Press recently reported that a consignment of Cocaine base was seized for the first time in the Department of Madre de Dios.

Resident Naturalist Program

Places are currently open in all Quarters in 1994. You need to be available for 3+ months, have £750-850 - mainly to cover your flight costs - and, preferably, a scientific background. For more details contact J.Forrest, with a sae.

Ben Coffey Jnr -

Following the death of the eminent ornithologist Ted Parker III last August, it is with further sadness that we report the death of Ben Coffey Junior. A field ornithologist who specialised in recording bird songs and calls throughout Latin America, he and his wife Lulu had long-standing connections with the Tambopata area. His 'Bird Songs and Calls of south-east Peru' was the first commercially available recording of bird calls to be made at Tambopata.

TReeS 1993 Accounts

The TReeS accounts for 1993, as yet unaudited, indicate that the society had an income of about £6,400 (£23,050 in 1992 and £13,850 in 1991). Expenditure was about £9,600 (£20,850 in 1992 and £20,625 in 1991). Approximately 75% of expenditure went on supporting activities relating to the projects supported in Peru, 14% was spent on UK running costs, administration and the promotion of TReeS, including the printing of the new leaflet, and 11% on the production of merchandise. A substantial quantity of merchandise remains in stock.

Income in 1993 was much reduced on previous years because no major contributing grants towards projects could be secured. The current economic climate is considered the principal reason for this. The activities of the projects supported were readjusted accordingly. Members remained very generous and



contributed a substantial part of our income. The number of new members in 1993 only balanced those who decided not to renew their membership and membership remains at about 450.

TReeS USA was reactivated in the second half of the year and the small balance in the account increased.

TReeS Merchandise - goods and prices unchanged from the October 1993 Newsletter.

T-shirts - photos available, if required, prior to purchase. The 'Earth Warriors' design is now only available in 'electric blue'.

New 'Macaw Plate Prints' - high quality colour A3 photo-copy (420mm x 295mm) of a Plate featuring 6 Macaws - £10, including P & P.

Cheques payable to 'TReeS', c/o J.Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3.

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting - the next TReeS meeting will be held in May and will be addressed by people recently returned from the Tambopata area. Further details in the next Newsletter.

S.American Tropical Rainforests- all day workshop meeting, 16th April, 9.30-5pm. The East Dorset Heritage Centre, The Market House, Wimborne, Dorset. Speakers will include M.Dobson of the Rio Mazan project (S.Ecuador), T.Tuddenham of the Flor del Bosque project (Ecuador) and C.Cox of the Ecological Trading Co., as well as a representative from TReeS. Fee - £18. Contact- Dr D.Hill (0272.303612) to reserve a place.

National Geographic magazine (January 1994) - excellent photo-based feature about Macaws at the Colpa (salt-lick) on the upper Tambopata river.

The work of TReeS is endorsed/supported by Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and schools, and various small trusts and charities.

Patron - Norman Myers.



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